Monthly Report

December 22, 1936 to January 21, 1937

and

January 22 to Fehuary 21

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

December to January:

Continued studying Smith Creek Cave Condors while awaiting the Caracara skeleton from Wetmore.

Identified bird bones from an Indian mound in Colorado for Mrs. F.C.Daniels.

Spent about two days going over literature concerning the Dodos and Solitaires, studying their skeletons as illustrated -- with, and for the Marquess Hachisuka.

Receiving a report from Mr. Nemetz that the cases for the skeleton room were nearing completion, mapped out a plan for assembling the specimens now in paste-board boxes into groups to go into the wooden box-drawers, calculating the space required and the arrangement in the cases, thus facilitating the moving. Then began clearing the shelf on the west wall, arranging the specimens in the wooden boxes and stacking the boxes numbered in order ready for re-installation in the new cases. The west shelf was completed cleared and ready to be removed.

Numbered, catalogued and boxed six modern skeletons.

Sent phtos to Ridgway to be retouched (kindness of Dr. Stock)

January to February

(I was absent the first two weeks of this period because of illness)

Upon returning to work on February, found that the Guadulupe Island Caracara skeleton had arrived, and after returning the necessary acknowledgments of receipt to the U.S.National Museum, immediately began making comparisons of the La Brea Caracara with this skeleton. This study has occupied the greater part of the past two weeks. The Caracara problem is a particularly difficult one owing to the similarity between existing species and the great variability found in the La Brea bird. This necessitates the careful comparison of a great number of measurements and the making of ratios and graphs. As I have previously indicated, the La Brea bird is wrongly assigned to the existing Audubon's Caracara and it is now a question of naming it as a new species or assigning it to the Guadulupe species.

The new cases for the west wall of the skeleton room were installed on February 15, and on the 18th, with Mr. Bukowski's unusually able assistance, we not only transferred all specimens for these cases, but had the east wall cases installed also, and filled these with the boxed specimens which I had previously stacked in the room.

OTHER BUSINESS -- January-February

Returned specimens identified for Mrs. Daniels from Colorado.

Wrote abstract of Passenger Pigeon paper for Biological Abstracts on request from editor of Condor.

Letter to Kenneth Alexander in British Columbia regarding Owl sent in for skeleton, and letter to A.W.Schorger of Wisconsin who wrote me regarding my Passenger Pigeon article in the Condor.

ACCESSIONS (December to February)

A2013	Two incomplete Mallard skeletons, Dec. 23	Bi 1214
A3328	Galapagos Penguin, body skeleton	Bi 1215
	Saras Crane, body skeleton to skin no 18651	Bi 1219
	Chilean Flamingo, body skeleton, Jan. 4 skin no. 18671	not numbered
A2023	Coot, received by Museum October 1, 1936	Bi 1217
A3201	Red-shafted Flicker, Nov. 30 (collected)	Bi 1216
	(previously recorded) White-crowned Sparrow	Bi 1218
	Myrtle Warbler, February 12	not numbered
A375	Prairie Falcon, from Temecula, Feb. 7	" "
A199	Audubon Caracara Mexico trip	" "
	Spoonbill, tibia and tarsus only " "	" "
Kenneth Alexander -- Horned Owl		" "
Sidney Platford -- 2 Ruddy Ducks, 1 Bonaparte Gull		" "

WORK CONTEMPLATED

Complete rearrangement of skeletons in the remainder of the new cases.

Continue with study of Caracaras.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

Crowned Pigeon from Cat. bird Jan 7
Jan 1937
Gif. Park Cancel Feb 21, 1937

MONTHLY REPORT

February 21 to March 21
1 9 3 7

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Continued with Caracara study.

Prepared legends for illustrations in Condor paper and sent manuscript to Dr. Loye Miller for his revision. Read his revised manuscript, and the paper should now be onits way to publication in the University of California series.

Prepared statement on the birds of Pit 10 at Rancho La Brea, for Dr. Stock. This entailed air mail correspondence with Alden Miller in Berkeley to obtain his report on the passerine birds from that locality. The bird report, added to Dr. Stock's report on the mammals was sent to Dr. Merriam to be read at the Symposium on Early Man at the Philadelphia Academy last week.

In the Osteology Room, the center cases were installed and all skeletons transferred to their new places -- Mr. Gibson helping with the rearrangment. I have prepared labels for the wooden boxes and for the doors of the cases. Some of these may have to be replaced as I go over the collection more carefully in a final check-up, but will suffice for use of the collection in the meantime. Went through the mammal Reference Catalogue indicating changed location of specimens. The following things have yet to be done before the collection is completely in shape in its new quarters:

(1) Mr. Nemetz' installation of catches on the doors, finishing of molding and final painting.

(2) Going through the collection (particularly the mammals) with Mr. Fischer to remove skeletons which need degreasing.

(3) Final check-up for accuracy of labels.

Probably these things will not be accomplished immediately, as I feel I should complete my study of the Caracara borrowed from the United States National Museum as quickly as possible, so that the specimen may be returned.

Other Business:

Visit from the Marquess Hachisuka who is still carrying on his study of the Dodos, and requires assistance in the matter of the skeleton.

Letter and two bones received from Lyndon Hargrave of the Museum of Northern Arizona, with request for verification of his identification of the bones. Reply sent him.

Catalogued and numbered modern skeleton of Audubon Caracara which Brandler brought back last month (Bi 1220).

ACCESSIONS

A3328 Crowned Pigeon, body skeleton, received by Fischer 1/27/37
A 746 Camel, February 21, 1937

WORK CONTEMPLATED

Complete my study of the Guadalupe Caracara sothat the specimen may be returned to the U.S.National Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

- MONTHLY REPORT of HILDEGARDE HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

March 22nd - April 22nd, 1937

Work Accomplished:

Continued with study of Caracaras.

With Mr. Willoughby, collected data for restoration of extinct Rancho La Brea birds for the chart on which he is working (for La Brea Hall).

Catalogued and numbered modern skeletons. Did a little more albelling and arranging of the skeleton collection - particularly on the rodents, which are in need of revision.

With Mr. Lincoln went over the scientific names of the mammals in the African groups. The bones of many of these specimens are in the skeleton collection.

Returned Passenger Pigeon bones to the U. S. National Museum.

Helped Miss Haraden, student from the Los Angeles Junior College, in the matter of gathering information for a term report on fossil birds. She will return weekly to consult books and study skeletal material.

Vacation to Berkeley to attend the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club - (April 14 to 19).

Accessions:

A2306 Eleven birds: 1 Dowitcher, 2 Cooper Hawks, 1 Vierginia Rail, 1 Roadrunner, 2 Cowbirds, 1 Gambel Quail, 1 Sonoran Red-wing, 1 Western Kingbird, 1 Western Tanager, for skeletons, Apr8,1937.
A2457 1 Red-bellied Hawk, Apr. 12, 1937, for skeleton.
A375 1 mummified Horned Owl for skeleton, Apr. 21, 1937.
A ?4147 Mr. James Savage: Nine Ducks (confiscated by Biol. Survey) for skeletons, Apr. 13, 1937.
A2024 Five birds for skeletons: 1 White-winged Dove, 1 Willet, 1 Lesser Scaup, 1 Marbled Godwit, 1 Laughing Gull (the latter, body skeleton only), March, 1937, from Lower California.
A199 Antelope Jack Rabbit (leg bone of 2 individuals) from Sonora, Mexico M1251 1/1937

Accessions Previously Reported, now Catalogued:

A3201 Yellow Warbler, Bi 1221; Myrtle Warbler, Bi 1222; Gambel Sparrow, Bi 1223; Savannah Sparrow, Bi 1224;
A199 Audubon Caracara, Bi 1220; Roseate Spoonbill (leg), Bi 1226; Audubon Caracara (body skeleton) Bi 1231;
A375 Prairie Falcon, Temecula, Bi 1232
A3328 Crowned Pigeon, Bi 1233; Chilean Flamingo, Bi 1234;

Accessions (continued):

✓A3417 Ruddy Duck, Jan. 18, 1937, Bi 1235-1236; Ruddy Duck, Nov.10, 1936/ Bi 1237
Bonaparte Gull, Bi 1238

✓A746 Two Mule Deers, M1248 and M1249; Camel, M1247

A.4116 A ? ~~Mrs.~~ Miss Charlotte Weber, Flying Squirrel (incomplete skeleton belonging with skin and skull no.~~4842~~ 59) M1250

Work Contemplated:

Continue study of Caracaras.

Respectfully submitted,

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Avian Paleontologist

- MONTHLY REPORT of H. HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

April 22 - May 22, 1 9 3 7

Work Accomplished:

Work this month has been confined largely to the study of the Caracaras. This study has progressed now to the point where I am able to begin rounding the paper into shape -- all preliminary measuring and comparing having been completed.

Curatorial duties this month have included the cataloguing and numbering of thirty modern bird skeletons.

Spent a little time helping Mr. Woodward with data concerning Rancho La Brea.

Other Business:

Received from Dr. Miller notice of the acceptance of our manuscript on the vultures of Rancho La Brea for publication in the University of California series. Took up with Dr. Bryan and Miss Martin the matter of ordering reprints.

Visit from the Marquess Hachisuka and correspondence with him regarding his paper on the dodo.

Visits from Dr. Miller and Dr. Broom, and from Mr. M. R. Harrington.

Accessions:

A3201	Young Blue Jay for skeleton, Oakland, May 10, 1937	
A2457	Screech Owl, May 5, 1937	Bi 1257

Old accessions now numbered:

A2024	Laughing Gull Bi 1239; Marbled Godwit	Bi 1240
	Lesser Scaup Bi 1241; White-winger Dove	Bi 1242
	Western Willet Bi 1243	
A2306	Cowbirds Bi 1244-Bi 1247; Kingbird	Bi 1245
	Tanager Bi 1246; Redwing Bi 1248; Virginia Rail	Bi 1249
	Quail Bi 1250; Dowitcher Bi 1251; Roadrunner	Bi 1252
	Cooper Hawks Bi 1253-1254	
A2457	Red-bellied Hawk	Bi 1267
A4147	Redhead Ducks Bi 1258-1259; Canvasback Ducks →	Bi 1260-1261
	(and one used for taxidermy group)	
	Pintail Bi 1262; Baldpate Bi 1263; Lesser Scaup	Bi 1264
	Ruddy Duck	Bi 1265
A 375	Horned Owl	Bi 1266

Work Contemplated:

Continue study of Caracaras.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

Monthly Report
May 22 to June 21, 1937

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

Work Accomplished:

The manuscript on the Rancho La Brea Caracara is nearing completion. One trip was made to the California Institute of Technology to check the Caracara bones from McKittrick and Carpinteria to ascertain whether or not they represent the same species as found at Rancho La Brea (presumably this is the case). Discussion with Dr. Stock has resulted in the decision to include more photographs than just the type specimen in the paper on the Caracara, and the order for photographs has been filed with the photographer.

Curatorial duties have involved xxx going over the modern bird skeleton collection in the new cases, to put it in final order. In this I have been assisted by Irving Brown, and approximately one-half the collection has been gone over to date. This work consists of re-boxing specimens where necessary to better fit the space available, checking labels for out-of-date nomenclature, adding labels to the lids of boxes to facilitate locating desired specimens at a glance (when the boxes were on the old shelves, end labels were more desirable).

Assisted Mr. Willoughby in the matter of obtaining information for the restoration of birds for the finished chart for La Brea Hall.

Checked identification on several bird bones sent for that purpose by Mr. Hargrave of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Briefly went over certain parts of the Marquess Hachisuka's paper on the Dodos, while he was at the Museum one day.

Accessions:

A375 Kangaroo Rat and Grasshopper Mouse, Maricopa, Calif.	June 1
A4052 Young Barn Owl, died in captivity	June 10
A574 Unidentified passerine	June 7

Materials needed:

As soon as we may again put in orders for materials, I shall need gummed labels and small labels for field data.

Work Contemplated:

Complete the study of the Caracara.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT
June 22 to July 21, 1937

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

Work Accomplished:

The greater part of my time this month has been devoted to the La Brea Caracara paper. This has included (1) Completion of the first draft of the manuscript and part of the final copy; (2) supervision of photographing specimens necessary for illustration; (3) preparing data for a chart which Mr. Willoughby has now made for me (line drawing of graphs showing comparative lengths of bones in different species of Caracaras); (4) studying bones of Caracara from Pleistocene deposits in Florida, loaned by Dr. Wetmore; (5) completion of tabular material -- measurements, etc.; (6) examination of bones of Caracara from Carpinteria asphalt pits loaned by Mr. Rogers of Santa Barbara.

Other Business:

Mr. Willoughby and I assisted Mr. Lincoln in the matter of spraying the color on the sectors illustrating the relative abundance of birds at Rancho La Brea -- in the chart which Mr. Willoughby has been preparing for La Brea Hall. The chart will soon be ready for exhibition.

Assisted Mr. Paul Lewis with information regarding La Brea birds for his writing on the Federal Writers' Project.

Gretchen Lyon returned Sea Lion Skulls borrowed earlier in the year.

Mr. Willett brought in Mr. Bellon, of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Bellon had with him two unusually large bear skulls on which we took measurements to have recorded. Henry Wylde and Mr. Beck came up to examine the skulls also, bringing with them the largest Rancho La Brea bear skull for comparison. (Mr. Bellon's largest Alaska Bear comes within two inches of the La Brea skull)

Correspondence with Mr. Rogers of Santa Barbara Museum and Dr. Wetmore.

Accessions:

A375 Albatross, 1 complete, 2 body skeletons	June 26, 1937
Tropic Bird body skeleton	June 27, 1937
A3201 Titmouse, complete skeleton, Oakland	June 30, 1937
Lark Bunting, Cheyenne, Wyoming,	July 13, 1937
A3328 Scarlet Ibis, body skeleton to skin no. 18783	July 19, 1937

Work Contemplated:

Complete Caracara paper.

Continue work in modern bone collection (as described in last month's report)

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

- MONTHLY REPORT Of H. HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

July 22nd - August 21st, 1937

Work Accomplished:

Completed the writing of the Caracara paper. As soon as the illustrations are ready, the paper will be turned over to Dr. Stock to be sent to Dr. Merriam.

Catalogued modern skeletons, bringing this material up to date.

Continued with work of putting this collection in order.

Dr. Gilbert of Los Angeles High School brought over the entire Rancho La Brea fossil bird collection belonging to the High School. I am making a census of the birds from this excavation to fit in, eventually, with complete censues of each individual pit at Rancho La Brea. My study of the High School material being nearly completed now, an assistant from the High School will probably be sent over to catalogue the bones, under my supervision, so that the collection may then be in an orderly state, and accessible to further scientific study when desired.

Other Business:

The fossil Caracaras from Florida and Carpinteria borrowed from Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Rogers, respectively, have been returned.

Spent one day in taking materials down to Capistrano Beach for the field party excavating the fossil whale skull, there.

George Huston (student, who has been working with Henry) assisted in my department during Henry's absence in the field.

Visit from Mr. Baily from the Colorado Museum.

Accessions:

No new accessions.
Old accessions now catalogued:

A3201	Titmouse	Bi 1270	
"	LarkBunting	Bi 1271	
"	California Jay	Bi 1272	
A3328	Scarlet Ibis	Bi 1273	
A4052	Barn Owl	Bi 1274	(complete)
A 305	Albatross	Bi 1268	" 18780
A 375	"	Bi 1269	(2 bodies, skins Nos.18779,/
A "	Tropic Bird	Bi 1275	
A "	Kangaroo Rat	M 1253	
A "	Grasshopper Mouse	M 1254	

Work Contemplated:

Complete L.A.High School collection survey.
Continue with modern skeleton collection.

Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

August 22 to September 21, 1937.

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

Work accomplished:

Completed the survey of the L.A.High School Rancho La Brea bird collection, with the exception of a few bones which will require further comparison with specimens not in our collections. These bones may represent additional elements of species already recorded from Rancho La Brea, but should be checked to be certain.

Dr. Gilbert sent over a man to catalogue the High School collection under my supervision. He began work on the 21st of September.

Went to Hollywood to collect a partial skeleton (with complete skull) of a Bighorn sheep. Catalogued and numbered the specimen at the Museum.

Catalogued and numbered Godwit skeleton just received.

Identified about one hundred bones from Indian excavations for the Museum of Northern Arizona (Mr. Hargrave). Retmrned the bones.

Returned modern caracara skeletons to Dr. Wetmore.

Other business:

Correspondence with Dr. Wetmore, Mr. Hargrave, and a Mr. Heizer of the University of California who wrote regarding identification of bones from Indian middens.

Answered and typed Classification Questionnaire from the Civil Service department.

One week of this month was taken in vacation.

Accessions:

A4263 Incomplete skeleton (with complete skull) of Bighorn Sheep
Received 9/15/37 Cat. no. M1255

A2077 Tibiotarsus of Chendytes lawi from Pleistocene beds at San Pedro received 9/15/37 Fossil bird cat. no. 2010

A3201 Marbled Godwit for skeleton, Sonoma County, Calif., collected Aug. 29, received Sept. 3, 1937 Cat. no. Bil276

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

September 22 to October 21, 1937

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Finished going over illustrations for my Caracara paper with Mr. Ridgway; wrote legends for them and turned the completed paper over to Dr. Stock. Work with Mr. Ridgway necessitated two short visits to California Institute of Technology.

Laid out L.A.High Rancho La Brea specimens for Mr. Parrot (man sent by Dr. Gilbert for cataloguing) and supervised his cataloguing of same. All identified specimens were completed last week, and the odds and ends should be finished within a few days. As Mr. Parrot comes only three days a week he has worked sixteen days so far.

Arranged space in osteology room for Mr. Lewis to work while completing the Rancho La Brea write up for the County Guide. Edited the completed work -- both individually, and with Dr. Stock. We have yet to go over his titles for the illustrations.

While Mr. Parrot is working with the L.A.High School Rancho La Brea material here, I prefer not to have our R.L.B. collection out for study (thus avoiding confusion of specimens). I have therefore begun a study of the osteology of modern hawks. This will, of course, tie in with the identification and study of the Rancho La Brea hawks -- one of the problems which I expect to undertake before long.

OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence with Dr. Wetmore regarding shipment of bones from which address was lost. The shipment was received in good order.

Composed labels for four mounted skeletons installed in Modern Skeleton Room by Mr. Fisaher. Labels were prepared by Miss Barbour and framed by Mr. Nemetz.

Correspondence with Mr. Hargrave regarding identification of bones

from Indian sites. Another box of bones has been received from him but I have not yet checked his identifications.

Mr. Walker of the Southwest Museum brought in a box of bones from (Indian) Malaga Cove site for identification. Cursory examination indicates an unusual and interesting assemblage.

ACCESSIONS None

WORK CONTEMPLATED

Continue with study of modern hawks until Mr. Parrot finishes cataloguing the High School material. Then I want to write a brief summary of the H.S. collection, listing species represented and their abundance. This can be readily accomplished by consulting the catalogue when completed. It will probably be necessary to go to U.C.L.A. to check the identification of a few of the bones, where certain species are lacking in our modern collection. I do not expect to publish this summary as an individual paper, I merely want to have it to add to the general survey of the Rancho La Brea birds which is gradually taking shape.

Respectfully submitted,

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Avian Paleontologist

- MONTHLY REPORT Of HILDEGARDE HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

October 22nd - November 22nd, 1937

Work Accomplished:

Completed identification of bones from Malaga Cove brought in by Mr. Walker of the Southwest Museum. Discovery of Pleistocene bones in this material led to the taking of two trips to the region, one with Mr. Walker and others to do a little more excavating at the locality, and another to scout the surrounding area for possible source of the Pleistocene material (it seems possible that these Pleistocene bones were washed in from elsewhere and the Indian occupation was not contemporaneous with them).

Mr. Hargrave of the Museum of Northern Arizona was here the greater part of a week. He brought with him bird bones from various archeological localities and I helped him with their identification.

Went to U.C.L.A. one afternoon to check identifications of several specimens from the L. A. High School Rancho La Brea collection. This practically completes my study of the collection, with the exception of one or two specimens.

Looked over proposed illustrations for the La Brea section of the County Guide and edited the titles. Some titles are to be revised, and there will be a final editing of the whole manuscript before it goes to press.

Continued with study of modern hawk osteology. Have worked out the differences in all principle elements between the three most common genera, Accipiter, Circus and Buteo, and within the genus Buteo between the species represented in our collection. I am now making a thorough comparison of the tarsometatarsi of all genera (of hawks and near relatives) represented in our osteology collection, noting also the unrepresented forms which will be needed for comparison before the study of the Rancho La Brea hawks can be properly made.

Short trip with Henry Wylde to see "footprint" reported from a W.P.A. job (it was not a footprint), and from there to Mr. Brandler's taxidermy shop to pick up two birds which he collected for the Museum. Cleaned skeletons from the birds.

Other Business:

Correspondence with Dr. Woodring regarding geology of the Malaga Cove region; with Phil Orr regarding publications on the caves; with Mr. Walker to let him know his material is ready for him; and Mr. Hargrave regarding identification of material.

Mr. Parrot completed the cataloguing of the L.A.High School collection and has left.

Harry Fletcher came in with material from a well broing in Inglewood. As there is a fairly good fossil flora represented, it seems important to know the geology of the region -- he is therefore going to notify the Museum when a new boring is begun (in about two weeks).

Accessions:

A 2820 Screech Owl from Crestline, October 24, 1938
A 199 Wilson Snipe, Independence, Calif. Received Nov. 19
A 199 Flicker (body skeleton). Data same as above
A 4290 Skulls and skeletal material not yet identified

Work Anticipated

Complete study of hawk tarsometatarsi.

Return to study of Rancho La Brea specimens.

Go over material from A 4290, identifying whenepossible, cleaning and cataloguing.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

- MONTHLY REPORT Of H. HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

November 22nd - December 22nd, 1937

WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

Completed study of tarsometatarsi of the modern hawks and eggles of our skeleton collection and drew up a key for future use in identification.

Checked over the hawk tarsi in the Rancho La Brea collection, making sure now of identifications which had been left tentative. A set of small tarsi which do not fall into any species reviewed, will require some study. They may possibly represent a new species. In this regard, I visited Dr. Miller's office at U.C.L.A. to consult his skeleton collection; also borrowed several skeletons therefrom.

Went over the skeletal material of A4290, replacing teeth that had fallen out or parts that were broken. Also arranged a series of vertebrae of a twenty-foot python and wired them together so that the skeleton may be of some use in the study collection.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Made list of California mammals needed for the modern skeleton collection -- for Mr. Willett to take with him on his collecting trips.

Made several visits -- with Mr. Wylde -- to two wells in Inglewood. From one of these wells, the workmen got many plant fossils. This was the one which Harry Fletcher reported to us last month. The other was a new boring which Mr. Fletcher notified us of in time to observe the log as it was made. Unfortunately, however, the series of strata were quite different from the fossil-bearing well and we have yet gotten no clue as to the age of the pine cones, etc. from the former well. We find the City of Inglewood Water Department cooperative and we may hope for some worth while information on the underlying geological strata of that area.

Received from Mr. Bailey of the Colorado Museum some bones from an Indian "digging" with request for identification.

Visit from Dr. Miller to look over La Brea stork bones.

Correspondence with Mr. Robter T. Moore of Pasadena regarding possibility of getting skeletons from Mexican birds.

Cleaned skeleton of a Macaw.

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ACCESSIONS:

A897	Cassin Kingbird	body skeleton	Dec., 1937
	Williamson Sapsucker	" "	" "
	2 White-winged Doves	incomplete skeletons	" "
A3328	Flamingo		Nov., "
	Cariama	" "	Dec., "
?	Sulphur Crested Cockatoo		Nov. 30, 1937
	Astec Conure		Dec. 13, 1937
A4257	Baird Cormorant		Dec. 13, 1937
A1265	Lessee Two-toed Anteater		
	Received in this department		Dec., 1937

Respectfully submitted,

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Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

December 22, 1937 - to - January 21, 1938

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

The work this month may be grouped under three headings:

1. Attention to modern skeleton collection -- numbering bones, cataloguing, etc.

Thirty-three bird skeletons and six mammal skeletons were catalogued and numbered and put away. This cleans up all skeletons which were on hand.

All catalogues pertaining to the modern skeletons were brought up to date -- with the exception of one set of cards for the numerical catalogue which Mrs. Waterfield is typing for me.

2. Identifying specimens sent in.

Specimens from Dr. Bailey, Colorado Museum, were entirely of mammals, wo Henry did the greater part of the identification. Material has been returned.

Specimens from the two upper levels of the Malaga Cove site, brought in by Mr. Walker (Southwest Museum) have been identified and labelled and are ready for Mr. Walker when he calls for them.

A few specimens from Mr. Hargrave, Museum of Northern Arizona, were received January 3, identified, and returned the same day.

Three small, supposedly bird, bones brought me by Mr. Peyton, prove to be rabbit foot bones.

A few bird bones from a northern California digging (archaeological) were sent by Mr. Robert Heizer, University of California. These have been unpacked, but not yet identified (except to note that one appears to be fossil).

Mr. Lincoln brought with him from Mr. Orr, Field Museum, a few bird bones from cave deposits which I asked to see. These have not been formally identified, though a casual glance indicates that the material is not as old as that from our two New Mexico caves.

3. Research.

I was able to put in a few hours study on the series of La Brea hawk tarsi to which I referred last month. This led to a question regarding the specific or subspecific distinction between the Red-shouldered and the Red Bellied Hawks, and necessitates the further study of these forms. In this regard I wrote to the University of California and the University of Kansas to borrow specimens, and was able to obtain two from Kansas. California has none.

OTHER BUSINESS

Returned skeleton of Polyborus lutosus to Dr. Wetmore.

Checked bird skeletons in our collection to Mr. Willett's little field book so that the needs of the skeleton collection are up-to-date for his present trip.

Answered letter from the Reverend Trotter pertaining to age in years of geological periods, and requesting references to literature on the geology of the Holy Land.

Other correspondence this month: Dr. Camp and Alden Miller, University of California; Dr. Woodring, Dept. of Agriculture; Mr. Hargrave

Museum of Northern Arizona; Mr. Riggs, Field Museum; Dr. Bailey, Colorado Museum; Mr. Bunker, University of Kansas.

Visits from: Paul Lewis regarding possible fossil found on trip (concretion); Kenneth Stager regarding discovery of cave in Kern County; Mr. Parrot regarding W.P.A. artists at L.A.High School getting information from us on the proper proportions of La Brea animals, for the construction of small models and a painted background for a high school exhibit.

In order to satisfy ourselves regarding the size of this project and its authencity, Dr. Stock, Henry and I paid Dr. Gilbert a short visit one afternoon. Though we had certain suggestions to offer regarding the restoration of certain of the birds and mammals in the partially finished background, I don't think our services will be needed to any extent. Apparently the project is confined to the small "museum" in the tower and will largely serve to provide stimulus to the students themselves to help in the installation, etc., as a kind of study problem.

ACCESSIONS

A2013	Mallard Duck -- two nearly complete skeletons, male	Bi1286
A897	Mexican Black Hawk -- tarsus and tibiotarsus from skin	12/28/37 Bi 1297
A2457	Snow Goose -- one complete one body skeleton, 12/12/37	Bi1298-1299
"	Prairie Falcon -- complete skeleton, received 12/24/37	Bi1300
"	Sierra Grouse -- pair of humeri " Jan. 1938	Bi1305
"	Goshawk -- incomplete skeleton " 1/7/38	Bi1307
A4147	Marbled Godwit -- Complete skeleton (confiscated) received 1/3/38	Bi1306
A3328	European Stork - body skeleton December, 1937	Bi1304

Old Accessions now catalogued

A3201	Marbled Godwit, August 1937, complete skeleton	Bi 1276
A3328	Cassowary, mounted on exhibition	Bi1277
"	Rhea " " "	Bi 1278
"	Cariama, body skeleton and tarsometatarsus(Dec.,1937)	Bi 1294
"	American Flamingo, complete skeleton (Nov., 1937)	Bi 1295
"	Eu	
A4290	Cheela Eagle, Siam, Miscellaneous bones (Nov., 1937)	Bi 1278
"	Fish-eating Eagle, Siam " " " "	Bi 1279
"	Two species of Hornbills, Siam, misc. bones " "	Bi 1280 -1281
"	Fish Owl, Siam, Miscellaneous bones " "	Bi 1282
A199	Wilson Snipe, complete skeleton (Nov., 1937)	Bi 1283
"	Flicker (hybird?)?, body skeleton " "	Bi 1284
A2820	Screech Owl, complete skeleton (Oct., 1937)	Bi1285
A897	Williamson's Sapsucker, body skeleton (Dec., 1937)	Bi 1287
"	Two White-winged Doves from old skins " "	Bi 1288-1289
"	Cassin Kingbird, body skeleton " "	Bi 1290

Accessions, cont'd

✓A4323	Aztec Conure, complete skeleton	(Dec., 1937)	Bil291
"	Great Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	(Nov. 1937)	Bil292
✓A4257	Baird Cormorant, body skeleton	Dec. 1937	Bil293
✓A2040	Bufflehead, incomplete skeleton from skin no. 16341 (skin destroyed)		Bil294
✓A375	✓Prairie Falcon, complete skeleton	(May, 1937)	Bil301
"	✓Gray Fox, skull	" "	M 1260
"	✓Kangaroo Rat, complete skeleton	June, 1937	M1261
"	✓Grasshopper Mouse " "	" "	M 1262
✓A2002	Dwarf Cowbird, complete skeleton	July, 1937	Bi 1302
✓A574	Domestic Chicken " "	June, 1937	Bi 1303
✓A1265	Lesser Two-toed Ant-eater, incomplete skeleton	(Dec.1937)	M 1258
✓A746	Two young antelope skulls (1 and 2 days old)	(Sept. 1937)	M1259
✓A4243	Didelphys cinerea, incomplete skeleton to skin no.4943		M 1263

WORK CONTEMPLATED

Identify the specimens sent by Mr. Heizer and Mr. Orr
Study the Red-shouldered and Red-bellied Hawks, as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

January 22 to February 21, 1938

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

1. Identification of specimens

For University of California, Museum of Anthropology -- specimens from Indian digging in the Sacramento Valley, sent in by Robert Heizer. These included five bones of a large Falco, and in order to identify them accurately it was necessary to have wing bones of Gyrfalcon and Duck Hawk. Mr. Cantwell removed the needed bones from skins in the collections of the Museum and Dr. Bishop. Also included among the University bones is an incomplete lower mandible of the Condor (well north of its present range). In return for identifying the specimens, the University has given them to the Museum (see below, A4353).

For Mr. Orr, Field Museum -- five fragmentary bones from cave deposits (probably Recent)

For Dr. Jenks, University of Minnesota -- five identifiable fragments and several unidentifiable from a deposit, presumably of glacial age, in Minnesota.

2. Research

Began study of the two specimens of Red-shouldered Hawk loaned by the University of Kansas, but found one of them to be wrongly identified (it is a Marsh Hawk). Correspondence with Dr. Wetmore indicates that the U. S. National Museum will send twelve more specimens, so I am awaiting their arrival before continuing this study.

Read proof on my Caracara paper (Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication no. 487)

3. Work on modern skeleton collection

Cleaned skeletons of Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Egret and five Mourning Doves.

Numbered, catalogued and boxed fifteen skeletons
These, together with the cards completed by Mrs. Waterfield this month, bring the modern skeleton collection entirely up to date in the matter of cataloguing.

4. Other business

Correspondence with Mr. Bunker, Univ. of Kansas; W. I. Follett; Phil Orr, Field Museum; Mr. Heizer, Univ. of California.

4. Other business (continued)

Visitors: Mr. Sidney Platford regarding photos of last California Grizzly -- I put the photographic order through for him and sent him the pictures.
Kenneth Stager with birds for skeletons.
Dr. Jenks, University of Minnesota to see the collections and study human remains; also (on second visit) to have bird bones identified (as noted above under item 1.)
Mr. James Murdock, interested in birds, living and fossil.

ACCESSIONS

A897	Gyrfalcon, wing bones of four	Bil308 - Bil311
A2002	Snowy Egret from Balboa, 2/8/38	Bil315
A2457	Prairie Falcon -- body skeleton of this bird previously donated and catalogued as Bil189; bones now given are from the skin, making almost a complete skeleton.	Bil189
	American Merganser -- body skeleton	Bil317
A3201	Varied Thrush, Contra Costa Co., Calif. 1/24/38	Bil316
A4147	Eight Mourning Doves -- nearly complete	
	five under number	Bil314
	three " "	Bil319
	White-winged Dove -- nearly complete	Bil318
	Seven Gambel Sparrows " "	Bil321
	Three Golden-crowned Sparrows nearly complete	Bil320
	One Shrike " "	Bil322
A4323	Roseate Spoonbill, Feb. 5, 1938	Bil313
A4353	Bones from Indian digging in Sacramento Valley	
	Duck Hawk -- five	
	Condor, Bald Eagle, Goose -- one each	

WORK ANTICIPATED

Research on Red-shouldered Hawks
Continue arrangement of modern skeletons for ease of reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

February 22 to March 21
1 9 3 8

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

The awaited specimens of Red-shouldered Hawk, a loan from the U.S.National Museum, arrived and the comparative study of the La Brea hawk bones was resumed. This study occupied the greater part of my time this month. Comparison of the tarsometatarsi was completed and that of the humeri nearly so.

Catalogued and numbered nine modern bird skeletons.

Prepared three Walrus skulls (previously A1570) for return to owner, and had owner sign receipt for Mrs. Whittier's files. (Records of arrangement of transaction in Dr. Bryan's correspondence).

Arranged with Dr. Bryan for return of bones from Indian digging in Sacramento Valley to University of California (accession A4353, as recorded in last month's report). The bones will be returned after they have been photographed here for record. Order for the photographs has been submitted to the photographer and the pictures are nearly completed. Duplicates of correspondence with the University in this regard are ready to be filed with the registrar when the specimens are returned.

Received another package of bones from the University as a gift to take the place of those returned. These are from a cave in Utah and are to be identified for the University, also.

OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence; with Mr. Gifford and Mr. Heizer, University of California, regarding return of specimens; Dr. Wetmore regarding loan of specimens from U.S.National Museum.

Visitors: Mr. Ruben Stirton, University of California, with Mr. Donald Crabtree to get fossil horse bones belonging to the latter. Helped them with these arrangements while Henry was occupied with other Museum business.

Mr. Harish Bhalla, a student at the Dental College, to see specimens in the skeleton collection, particularly skulls.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Burt to take photographs in the department. Took three shots of me working with La Brea bones, as well as other shots elsewhere in the building.

Mrs. matthews to see about dresses for the "Horseless Carriage" party. With Mrs. Whittier, she and I and four of the Museum girls picked out costumes. After the party Mrs. Whittier and I checked all the costumes back again.

ACCESSIONS

A4353 Bones from a cave in Box Elder County Utah. Mostly mammals.
A4147 Two Hudsonian Curlews (Bi1323-1324), three Buffleheads (Bi1325-1327), two Canvasbacks (Bi1328 and 1331).
A3328 Body skeleton Crowned Pigeon (Bi 1329) and complete skeleton European Stork (not yet numbered)

Respectfully submitted,

Avian Paleontologist

*- MONTHLY REPORT Of H.HOWARD, AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST -

March 22nd - April 22nd, 1938

WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

Completed study of Red-shouldered Hawk skeletons from U. S. National Museum and returned specimens. Also returned specimens to University of Kansas.

Resumed study of Pit 10. Alden Miller and I had completed a preliminary report on the complete avifauna of this pit, and are now enlarging this. Spent three or four hours in conference with Dr. Loye Miller and Alden Miller on this subject while at Fresno for the Cooper Ornithological Club meetings. We are attempting to go over all available old records that this report may be as complete as possible in all respects. In this regard had copies made of Wyman's field notes for both Drs. Miller, and also procured a set of photos of the excavation.

Read page proof on Rancho La Brea Caracara paper.

With Dr. Stock's assistance, identified specimens from Utah Cave for University of California.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Numbered and catalogued three modern bird skeletons.
Identified
~~Identified~~ Miocene horse teeth for a Mr. Yarnell.

Visit from Mr. W. H. Burt, University of Michigan, on his return from Pemberton trip with Mr. Willett.

Asked Miss Barbour to change two labels for modern skeleton hall, and reinstalled labels.

Assisted Henry Wylde and Russell Smith in plan of rearrangement of La Brea Hall cases. Bird cases now on west side of hall, near restoration of Teratornis.

Took two mounted bat skeletons from case in modern hall and sent them to Mr. Fischer for mending.

With Mr. Willett, went over and tagged the thirty-six bird skeletons which he brought back from his trip.

Correspondence: With Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Bunker regarding the return of specimens of Red-shouldered Hawks; with Mr. Heizer and Mr. Gifford regarding returned University of California material and identifications,

ACCESSIONS:

A 375 Thirty-six skeletons of birds from Mexican trip, Jan.-Apr., 1938: Raven, Frigate bird, Oystercatcher (2), Red-footed Booby, Blue-faced Booby, Brewster's Booby (2), Mexican Cormorant, Wedge-tailed Shearwater (2), Blackvented Shearwater,

ACCESSIONS (Contd.)

Socorro Ground Dove (2), Military Macaw, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret (3), White Ibis (2), Mexican Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Mexican Black Hawk, Duck Hawk, Black Vulture, Royal Tern (3), Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Laughing Gull (2), Anhinga, Trogon.

A2024	Peruvian Pelican, body skeleton from Hancock Expedition received March 24, 1938	Bi 1332
A 574	Raven	Bi 1333
A3328	European Stork	Bi 1334

Work Contemplated:

Continue with Pit 10.

Respectfully submitted,

AVIAN PALEONTOLOGIST

MONTHLY REPORT

April 22 to May 21, 1938

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontologist

WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

Practically the whole of this month has been given over to work on the modern skeleton collection, particularly the skeletons which Mr. Willett brought back from Mexico.

As Mr. Cantwell finishes cleaning the skeletons, I have assisted in degreasing them, then cataloguing, numbering and boxing them. With these skeletons, also, I have recorded the actual bones present in the skeleton. I have done this by listing the elements which compose the complete skeleton, checking off those present as I number the bones. The list will be on the reverse side of the catalogue card of the specimen. I feel that this record is important for future use, so am beginning now with the birds coming in, and will gradually check the old ones, as time permits. I have so far checked about ten old ones.

Twenty-five of the 36 skeletons brought back by Mr. Willett have been cleaned and catalogued -- of these 19 are completed (numbered, skeletal elements checked, and the skeleton boxed and put away).

I have continued with the rearranging and adding of additional labels to the bird collection, so that this is practically completed now except for the smaller skeletons. I shall wait for the small gummed labels (ordered a few weeks ago) before finishing these.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Prepared mailing list for my paper being published by the Carnegie Institution and sent it to Dr. Stock, to be forwarded to Washington.

Most of one day this month was spent in a trip to Malaga Cove and other bone sites in the Palos Verdes area with Dr. Stock, Dr. Woodring and Henry Wylde -- Mr. Willett and members of the Southwest Museum staff accompanied us to the first site.

Went over the fossil bird collection with Dr. A. A. Allen, also conducted him through La Brea Hall, and with Mr. Willett and Henry Wylde showed him about Hancock Park.

Work on Pit 10 is held up pending further word from Dr. Merriam about early notes on the work.

ACCESSIONS:

No new accessions. Mr. Willett's Mexican birds, now catalogued are as follows:

Trogon Bi 1335
Mex. Goshawk Bi 1336
Nt. Heron Bi 1337
Raven Bi 1338
Red-footed Booby Bi 1339
Socorro Red-tail Bi 1340
Frigate Bird Bi 1341
Black Hawk Bi 1350
Macaw Bi 1351
Louisiana Heron Bi 1342
Frazar Oystercatcher Bi 1343, Bi 1346
Royal Tern Bi 1344, Bi 1354, Bi 1357
Laughing Gull Bi 1345, Bi 1359
Reddish Egret Bi 1347, Bi 1355
Little Blue Heron Bi 1348
Brewster's Booby Bi 1349, Bi 1352
Snowy Egret Bi 1353
Blue-faced Booby Bi 1356
Wedge-tailed Shearwater Bi 1358

Respectfully submitted

Avian Paleontologist

MONTHLY REPORT

May 22 to June 21, 1938

Hildegarde Howard — Avian Paleontology

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Report of progress on Pit 10: Letter from Alden Miller with report of passerines on which we have definite data as to location in the pit. With Mrs. Whittier's help looked over old correspondence between Daggett and Merriam and secured valuable information which, I think will clarify the situation enough to go ahead with our bird paper whether we can get the original notes from Merriam or not. Merriam reported to Stock that he has not yet located these original notes, but expects to do so upon the return of his secretary.

Received two small boxes of bones from Mr. Heizer, excavated at Lovelock Cave, Nevada. Identification of this material has involved determining several species of ducks, and as I have never before studied the ducks in detail, I am taking this opportunity to work out the identifying characters of two elements of the skeleton. Our research collection of skeletons now includes the great majority of species of ducks, so that I feel the study is worth while at last. Previously, with so small a comparative collection, there were so many species lacking that there could be no definite determinations made.

Read page proof on Caracara paper from Carnegie, and prepared an additional page at the editor's request.

Gave short lecture on Rancho La Brea birds to the Audubon Society at Hancock Park. Had two Junior College classes in the Museum -- one in La Brea Hall, one in the Modern Skeleton Hall.

Checked mammals needed for skeletons, in Jack VonBloeker's field book.

ACCESSIONS:

A1265 Mountain Lion Skull
A2076 Incomplete skeleton of Raccoon
A4432 Cranium of Buffalo

WORK ANTICIPATED:

Complete identifications on Lovelock Cave material, including the study of the ducks.
Work on Pit 10.
Number modern skeletons.

Respectfully submitted,

Curator of Avian Paleontology

Hildegarde Howard
August 4, 1950

PROGRESS REPORT

May 25 - July 31, 1950

1. HALL OF EVOLVING LIFE -- Adaptation Unit

Remounting of skeleton of opossum was completed and specimen placed in position in the unit.

Mount of little sea lion was completed and specimen installed.

Placement of antelope skeleton was decided upon, necessary iron work prepared, and specimen put in place.

Arrangement of skulls in the section on tooth adaptation was decided upon, brackets made, and three largest skulls installed.

Preparation of the opossum skin is under way.

Background color for the five individual sections of this unit was discussed, and a green-blue decided upon -- a dark shade to be used in the first section (right), with progressively lighter shades of the same color in each succeeding section. This provides a deeper tone for the water section, and a lighter one for the background of the antelope (expressive in a stylized way of the more open country associated with the runner). Test color panels have been inserted in the first section. Painting of these backgrounds awaits the arrival of an order for Sillers (non-glossy) paint. This is still held up in the County Purchasing Department.

Label copy was reviewed and given last revision. Work order for printing is in the printer's hands.

Persons involved in the work outlined above: Mr. Beck and Mr. Besson in Science, Mr. Wylde and Mr. Badger in Exhibitions. My part, other than work on the labels, was a matter of many consultations.

2. HALL OF EVOLVING LIFE -- Comparative Physiology Unit

Miss Templeton and I have had a number of conferences, including one with Dr. Stock and Mr. Wylde. Our introductory statement concerning the subject matter to be included in the unit is submitted separately.

Miss Templeton has progressed farther with the plant physiology than I have with animal. She has had conferences with plant physiologists both here and in the east, and has carried on considerable study of her own. I had expected to confer with Dr. Bartholomew of U.C.L.A. concerning animal physiology, but found he was out of town through June and July. He has just returned and an appointment has been set for next week. I asked Dr. Bartholomew to confer on this problem as I believe him to be one who, though a specialist in his field, is able to understand the necessity for simplification in presentation to the layman.

2. (Continued)

We hope to have a progress report to offer you in September which will include suggestions from Mr. Wylde as to feasible methods of portraying the functions we wish to demonstrate.

3. HALL OF EVOLVING LIFE -- Clearance of skeletons from center.

All modern skeletons have been removed from the central area in the Hall, and cases containing skeletons emptied. A work order has been submitted for the Helpers to remove cases and various "oddments" (including a mount of Rancho La Brea lion which Dr. Stock does not wish to have dismounted). The fossil whale skull has not been removed as Dr. Stock is considering incorporating it in the new exhibition.

For removal of the skeletons so soon we are indebted to Mr. Bessom, whose determination to see the job accomplished prompted him to ask permission to undertake it alone upon completion of the work he was scheduled to do on the skeletons in the Adaptation Unit. Dr. Stock was unable to promise help from Mr. Otto until the first week in August (though, as it turned out, he was able to come a week sooner).

Mr. Bessom first carried all the smaller skeletons to my laboratory, or to the storage closet on the second floor. He next proceeded to prepare each large skeleton for storage by removing limbs and skull, so that by the time Mr. Otto came to assist, the two working together were able to wrap, label and store all the large skeletons in three days. With the exception of the elephant the large skeletons are stored above the rotunda, suspended from the steel beams, the bases and iron rods (labeled as to the skeleton to which they belong) are stacked below.

The elephant was a separate problem as the body width was too great to pass through the doors leading to the rotunda area. For this Mr. Bessom enlisted the aid of Mr. Armstrong, who assisted with ropes and pulleys in removing the heavy skull. Mr. Bessom then removed the legs and suspended the body with ropes while he removed the iron work. The Helpers assisted in carrying the various sections of the skeleton to S-B 5 where the dismounted elephant is now stored in the unit of that hall which contains other stored skeletons (some of these are on the list to be sold).

The skeletons of gorilla and chimpanzee (mounted together on a single base) remain in the Hall -- but put to one side -- until a decision is reached regarding their use in one of the Units of the new exhibition.

4. At odd moments I have been able to accomplish a little research on my problem concerning the Patagonian fossil bird. I had given a preliminary paper on the subject at the Cooper Club last spring, and wished to round up my final conclusions before I became too deeply involved in plans for new units of the Hall of Evolving Life. I still have considerable detailed work to do to prepare the technical scientific paper for publication, but at least my basic conclusions have been reached and a first draft of the introductory and concluding sections of the paper is ready.

Respectfully submitted,

Curator of Avian Paleontology

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